

that city's Black Ships festival. I am proud to draw the Senate's attention to this historic occasion, and to express on behalf of my colleagues our deep congratulations to Mayor Naoki Ishii, members of the City Council, and the citizens of Shimoda, Japan as they host the celebration of the mutual friendship and shared values between our two nations, common bonds that will last for many years to come.●

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I honor some of the greatest men and women in the Nation—Montana teachers. In my State we are blessed to have educators making a difference each day in the lives of our young people. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and Montana educators should hold their heads high. Montana 8th graders have the second highest science scores in the world. Eighty-four percent of Montana public school teachers in core academic fields have full certification and a major in their field, ranking Montana as one of the top States—2nd out of 50—in teacher qualification. Montana is one of the top 11 States in the percentage of high school graduates going on to college.

Yes, our children are truly fortunate. Our highly qualified teachers not only work hard, but they care about each and every student that enters their classroom. I thank you, Montana teachers, for your sense of duty and compassion to our precious future generation.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### ANDREA SILBERT, CEO OF THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND ENTERPRISE AND LEADER FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Andrea C. Silbert, founder of the Center for Women and Enterprise, CWE, for her dedicated and tireless work on behalf of women in business. On Friday, after 9 years of outstanding service, Andrea stepped down as chief executive officer for CWE. I am pleased to take this moment to reflect on Andrea's achievements and her contribution to the growing community of women entrepreneurs.

Andrea began her career working for Morgan Stanley in New York, but after only a few years, left the financial capital of the world to pursue her interest in community economic development. This led Andrea to spend several years helping the less fortunate in Costa Rica, Colombia and Brazil. While in Latin America, Andrea conducted research on nontraditional exports, taught seminars in financial planning of microloan programs for Women's World Banking, and in Brazil helped disadvantaged young girls with income-generating projects.

In 1994, with this invaluable experience and fresh perspective on economic development issues in the United States, Andrea returned to her hometown of Boston with the hope of starting a nonprofit for women entrepreneurs. Her idea was to create a launching pad for all women, regardless of background, to start a business. She was particularly concerned with helping disadvantaged women break the cycle of poverty and become financial self-sufficient. Her efforts led to the establishment of a community-based resource where aspiring women entrepreneurs learn from those who have the experience and knowledge to help others succeed. On October 23, 1995, with financial backing from the Small Business Administration, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Bank of Boston, and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Andrea started CWE.

Under Andrea's leadership and with a budget of \$350,000, three employees, and donated space at Northeastern University, CWE developed into a \$2.6 million nonprofit employing 25 full-time staff with centers in Boston, Worcester, MA, and Providence, RI assisting nearly 2,000 clients a year. Although CWE has quickly become the model for successful women's business centers, the importance of CWE to women entrepreneurs cannot be summed up with numbers.

As more women experience this dream of business ownership, there will continue to be a need for community leaders, like Andrea, who help facilitate the path from poverty to prosperity through entrepreneurship—leaders who can help these women start small businesses, lift themselves up, and give back to their communities.

As a past president of the Association of Women's Business Centers and former member of the National Women's Business Council, Andrea has been an advocate for women in business not only in Massachusetts, but across the country. Her testimony before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship in February of 1997 helped develop the nationwide network of Women's Business Centers and helped build a record of support for continued and increased funding for women who want to start businesses.

When Andrea started CWE in 1995, there were only 28 centers in the Women's Business Center network. Today, with Andrea's support, assistance and outreach through the Association of Women's Business Centers, there are 88 centers in 47 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands. Last year, these centers helped 106,000 clients, but without the devotion and vision of people like Andrea, many of the women entrepreneurs across the country would not have this invaluable resource.

Andrea Silbert has not only been a leader for women in business, but a resounding voice for social change. On behalf of myself and my colleagues on

the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for Andrea's commitment to women entrepreneurs and for her many years of creating new opportunities for women and their communities. Her work through the Center for Women and Enterprise will be greatly missed, but I am confident that her successor, Donna Good, is well suited to continue Andrea's legacy of accomplishment. I want to wish Andrea success and good luck in whatever the future holds.●

#### DR. NORA KIZER BELL

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I would like to commemorate the life of Dr. Nora Kizer Bell, who passed away on January 24, 2004, after a heroic fight against cancer. Throughout her distinguished life, Dr. Bell was a great champion of the liberal arts and women's education.

Among Dr. Bell's career highlights was her term as President of Wesleyan College. As the first female president of the college, she implemented numerous projects, including a major renovation and construction plan, and a new campus technology plan. She also helped increase enrollment, improve academic quality, and increase the endowment at Wesleyan.

In July 2002, Dr. Bell took office as president of Hollins University in Roanoke. During her tenure, she worked hard to make the school a Tier One university and twice saw Hollins take the top rank in "Quality of Life," according to the Princeton Review.

Dr. Bell, a magna cum laude graduate of Randolph-Macon Women's College, was an articulate advocate of single-gender education. Over the years, she wrote on the issue in several prestigious publications, including: USA Today, the Washington Post and the Christian Science Monitor. For her work, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian award presented by the Governor of South Carolina.

Dr. Bell was the loving spouse of Dr. David A. Bell, President of Macon State College, and the devoted mother of three children. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy as a mother, a friend and a leader in women's education.●

#### ANTHONY FILIPPIS, SR. AND THE MICHIGAN ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES HALL OF FAME

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a remarkable man and his organization—Mr. Tony Filippis, Sr. and the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame.

Winston Churchill once remarked, "We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival."

And that is exactly what Mr. Filippis did.

When tragedy struck in 1929, Mr. Filippis found inspiration not only for